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Special Armed Self-Defense Unit of P'yŏngwŏn-gun

1. In January 1952 the Special Armed Self-Defense Unit of P'yŏngwŏn-gun was at Totok-ri, Sukch'ŏn-myŏn (125-38, 39-24) (YD-2764). This unit, which had a strength of 530 men, was commanded by KIM Sun-ung, a 32-year old major who was formerly chairman of the P'yŏngwŏn-myŏn People's Committee. A command post, with training, thought cultivation, propaganda, and organization sections, and four companies, with three or four platoons each, comprised the unit, which was armed with rifles and PPSH's.
2. The Special Armed Self-Defense Unit was attached to the Fatherland Salvation Support Association. After the Korean war began, this association had established a self-defense unit in every North Korean village (ri), and the North Korean Labor Party had formed a special self-defense unit in each district (myŏn). Two loyal Labor Party members from every village in the district concerned were in charge of training and supervision of the district units. In February 1951, the two types of self-defense units in each county (gun) were united into a battalion called a special armed self-defense unit. Ranks were specially created for the officers of the unit who wore special insignia on their collars. The regular members wore civilian clothes. To qualify for membership, a person had to be a farmer or laborer between 18 and 35 years of age and a Labor Party member. Most of the members were extreme leftists.

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Sŏ-myŏn Battalion of the Fatherland Salvation Support Association

3. In April 1952, one battalion of the Fatherland Salvation Support Association was in each of the four myŏn¹ of Iwŏn-gun (128-38, 40-22) (DV-6968). The headquarters of the Sŏ-myŏn¹ battalion, with YI Kyong-sŏp as commander and YI Un-su as deputy commander, was in Haryujong-ni (128-35, 40-20) (DV-6564). The Sŏ-myŏn Battalion comprised two companies, the 1 Company being responsible for fifteen villages in the Songnodae-ri (128-34, 40-20) (DV-6364) area and the 2 Company for seven villages in the Munp'yong-ni (128-33, 40-22) (DV-6268) area.

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Comment. Information available to this office lists only three myŏn, Iwŏn-myŏn, Nam-myŏn, and Tong-myŏn, under Iwŏn-gun.

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